CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An extractor for releasing a compound from a dome end of a casing, the casing having an open end opposite the dome end, the extractor comprising:

a support device connected to the casing, said support device adapted to stabilize the casing as the compound is released from the dome end; and

a fluid port adjacent the dome end of the casing, said fluid port adapted to introduce a fluid through the dome end to the compound to release the compound by separating the compound from the dome end.

2. The extractor of Claim 1, wherein said support device is slidingly engaged within the open end of the casing.

3. The extractor of Claim 1, wherein the casing and the compound are elements of a munition, the munition including a liner inside the casing with a flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the compound enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner, said support device including a dejeter slidingly engaged within the open end of the casing adjacent the liner to support the liner.

4. The extractor of Claim 3, further comprising a munition support that holds the munition.

5. The extractor of Claim 3, wherein the casing includes an opening in the dome end, the munition includes a lead charge in the opening adjacent the compound, and said fluid port abuts the lead charge.

6. The extractor of Claim 1, further comprising a fluid source in fluid communication with said fluid port to provide the fluid to said fluid port.

7. The extractor of Claim 1, said support device including a dejeter housing and a dejeter slidingly engaged with said dejeter housing, said dejeter adapted to contact and stabilize the casing.

8. The extractor of Claim 7, said support device further including a compression spring between said dejeter and said dejeter housing, said compression spring resisting axial sliding of said dejeter into said dejeter housing.

9. The extractor of Claim 7, said support device further including a dejeter housing support that holds said dejeter housing axially aligned with the casing.

10. The extractor of Claim 1, further comprising a pushing member adapted to urge said fluid port through the dome end to provide fluid communication from said fluid port to the compound.

11. The extractor of Claim 10, wherein said pushing member is connected to said support device to urge said support device and the casing against said fluid port.

12. The extractor of Claim 10, wherein the casing includes an opening in the dome end and said fluid port is urged into the opening by said pushing member.

13. The extractor of Claim 10, wherein said pushing member includes a pneumatically operated compression cylinder that urges said support device and the casing toward said fluid port.

14. The extractor of Claim 13, wherein said pushing member also includes a rod connecting said compression cylinder to said support device.

15. The extractor of Claim 1, wherein the compound is a packed explosive.

16. The extractor of Claim 1, wherein the fluid is a pressurized water

17. A method for releasing a compound from a dome end of a casing, the casing having an open end opposite the dome end, the method comprising:

a) connecting a support device to the casing, the support device adapted to stabilize the casing;

b) urging the dome end of the casing against a fluid port; and

c) introducing a fluid through the fluid port to the compound to release the compound by separating the compound from the dome end.

18. The method of Claim17, further comprising removing the released compound from the casing.

19. A method for releasing an explosive from a munition, the munition including a casing having an open end, a dome end opposite the open end, a liner inside the casing with a flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the explosive enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner, the method comprising:

inserting a fluid port into the dome end of the casing; and

introducing a fluid through the fluid port to the explosive to release the explosive by separating the explosive from the dome end and to shear the mechanical coupling between the liner and the casing.

20. The method of Claim19, further comprising removing the released explosive from the casing.

21. An extractor for releasing a compound from a dome end of a casing, the casing having an open end opposite the dome end, the apparatus comprising:

a) means for connecting a support device to the casing, the support device adapted to stabilize the casing;

b) means for urging the dome end of the casing against a fluid port; and

c) means for introducing a fluid through the fluid port to the compound to release the compound by separating the compound from the dome end.

22. The extractor of Claim 21, further comprising means for removing the released compound from the casing.

23. An extractor for releasing an explosive from a munition, the munition including a casing having an open end, a dome end opposite the open end, a liner inside the casing with a

flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the explosive enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner, the apparatus comprising:

means for inserting a fluid port into the dome end of the casing; and

means for introducing a fluid through the fluid port to the explosive to release the explosive by separating the explosive from the dome end and to shear the mechanical coupling between the liner and the casing.

24. The extractor of Claim 23, further comprising means for removing the released explosive and liner from the casing.